

Medical Reporting by Healthcare Practitioners

The Highway Traffic Act (HTA) **requires** physicians, optometrists and nurse practitioners in Ontario to report to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) patients age 16 or over who have certain medical or visual conditions that may make it dangerous to drive. In addition, physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists and occupational therapists have the discretion to also report patients who, in their opinion, have a condition that may make it dangerous to drive.

Mandatory Reporting – *Highway Traffic Act* 203(1)

Mandatory reporting of patients identified with certain high risk medical conditions, functional impairments or visual impairments extends to physicians, nurse practitioners and optometrists. Optometrists are required to report only conditions pertaining to visual impairment. Details of what must be reported can be found in Ontario Regulation 340/94 s 14.1.

Discretionary Reporting – *Highway Traffic Act* 203(2)

Discretionary reporting of patients who have, or appear to have, a medical condition that may make it dangerous for the person to operate a motor vehicle is permitted for physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists and occupational therapists.

In all cases, the practitioner must have met the person being reported for an examination or for the provision of medical or other services.

New Reporting Form

The new reporting form has been designed to complement reporting legislation. The form includes the six categories for mandatory reporting with a comprehensive list of conditions for each category. They are provided for ease of completion by the reporting practitioner and for streamlined file processing by MTO. Each section includes an option for 'Other' if the condition being reported is not listed. Conditions reported under each mandatory category represent high risk medical conditions and impairments that, based on national medical standards, warrant a licence suspension. **A licence suspension will be issued where a mandatory condition is ticked.**

Section 7 of the reporting form can be used for making a discretionary report pursuant to the authority granted to physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists and occupational therapists in section 203(2) of the HTA.

How to Complete the Form

A report required under section 203(1) or 203(2) of the *Highway Traffic Act* must include,

- a) **the name, address and date of birth** of the reported person – name and date of birth will automatically populate page two when page one is completed;
- b) **the condition or impairment diagnosed or identified** by the person making the report – if you are reporting a mandatory condition click the box beside the medical condition(s) you are reporting. In some cases you will have to click two boxes – for example – if you are reporting a seizure due to alcohol withdrawal you will click Seizure due to: Alcohol Withdrawal
- c) complete Section 7 if you are making a discretionary report of a condition that is not listed as mandatory
- d) complete Part 3 – Practitioner's Information
- e) print and sign

Patient's Right to Access This Report

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires MTO to provide your patient with a copy of the report if requested. It may be withheld only if there is evidence that its release will threaten your health or safety or that of your patient or another individual. If you are concerned that the release of this report would threaten someone's health or safety, make sure you indicate this by checking the appropriate box on the front of the reporting form (where applicable) or by calling MTO at 416-235-1773 or 1-800-268-1481.